

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 877

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3006

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SREF, IZ, IR

SUBJ: IRAN/IRAQ BORDER NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. TEHRAN 2932 B. TEHRAN 2857

1. ALTHOUGH IRANIAN PRESS CLAIMS IRAN AND IRAQ HAVE RESOLVED THEIR BORDER PROBLEMS, OTHER SOURCES INDICATE SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF VIEW REMAIN.

2. KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL APRIL 3 REPORTED SEC GEN IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTRY MOHAMAD SABRI AL-HADITHI HAD SAID IN BAGHDAD APRIL 1 THAT BORDER COMMITTEE HAD COMPLETED ITS TASK, AND WOULD MEET IN BAGHDAD APRIL 7 FOR FORMAL TALKS. (THIS PRESUMABLY REFERRED TO LAND BORDER COMMITTEE.) TEHRN JOURNAL SAID TRIPARTITE TALKS WITH ALGERIANS WOULD BEGIN IN BAGHDAD APRIL 17.

3. EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION OVER
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TERRITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS ALONG LAND BORDER. OVER YEARS IRANIANS

HAVE ENCROACHED ON IRAQI TERRITORY, IN SOME CASES AS FAR AS 14 KILOMETERS. IRAN RELUCTANT TO GIVE UP THESE AREAS, AS THEY INCLUDE STRATEGIC TERRAIN AND, IN SOME CASES, IRANIAN-BUILD ROADS. SHAHPOUR NEMAZEE OF KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL, WHO ACCOMPANIED HOVEYDA TO BAGHDAD, TOLD EMBOFFS IRAN WAS WILLING TO GIVE UP ALL TERRITORY TAKEN IN BORDER SKIRMISHES, BUT THIS MAY COVER ONLY LAND GAINED DURING LAST YEAR OR TWO. BORDER NEGOTIATIONS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY DIFFERENCES OF VILLAGE NAMES USED ON MAPS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

4. WATER BORDER NEGOTIATIONS LESS COMPLEX THAN THOSE ON LAND, BUT THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES LOCATING MAIN CHANNEL TO ESTABLISH THALWEG WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN RESOLVED (SEE KHORRAMSHAHR 20).

5. BORDER CONTROLS MENTIONED PARA 2 REFTTEL B ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED, WHICH SUGGESTS JOINT COMMITTEE ON MOVEMENTS ACROSS BORDER MAKING MOST PROGRESS OF THREE. AMCONSUL TABRIZ REPORTS HIS SOURCES IN KERMANSHAH AND REZAIYEH CONFIRM BORDER IS BEING KEPT OPEN FOR WESTWARD MOVEMENT OF KURDS WHO DESIRE RETURN TO IRAQ.
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